

*A Publication Of Marvin Church • October 2025*



# MarvinLife



**Inside:  
Brick Street Block Party  
October 19**



At the end of August, Gina and I had the privilege to be a part of the George W. Truett Theological Seminary Wesley House of Studies Weekend hosted on the campus of Baylor University. We were there with a small delegation of Marvin members to celebrate all that God has done over the past five years through the birthing of an orthodox, evangelical, Wesleyan training institution under the umbrella of Baylor's Truett Seminary.

The vision for the Wesley House of Studies began in 2016, when the faculty of Truett Seminary voted unanimously to open twenty-five percent of faculty positions to orthodox, evangelical scholars outside of the Baptist tradition. The hope was to attract Wesleyan scholars in an effort to begin educating pastors for service in the Methodist tradition. In the words of Truett's Dean Todd Still, "Baptist and Methodist Churches had been serving communities together for many years, often across the street from one another."



With the "Protocol for Separation" being created after the 2019 called session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church and the talk of the emergence of a traditionalist Methodist denomination coming onto the scene, visionary leaders (in both the Methodist and Baptist camps) knew that a forthcoming denomination would need a place to educate its clergy and ministry leaders.

In the fall of 2020, Dr. Billy Abraham became the inaugural Director for the Wesley House of Studies. Dr. Abraham's selection signaled Truett's commitment to the historic Wesleyan tradition and caught the attention of many who revered Abraham as one of the brightest Wesleyan scholars in the world. That year, the Wesley House began with two students enrolled and no endowments for faculty chairs or student scholarships.

Since its inception, and the emergence of the Global Methodist Church, the Wesley House of Studies has experienced amazing growth. Even with Dr. Abraham's sudden and unexpected death in 2021, God has raised up other capable scholars like Dr. Jason Vickers, Chair

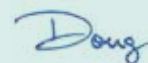
of Wesleyan Studies, Global Methodist Church Bishop Scott Jones, Dr. Rusty Freeman, Director of the Wesley House of Studies, and Dr. Chappell Temple, Director of the Pastoral Studies Program of the GMC.

Now there are 128 students enrolled in the Wesley House and 140+ students enrolled in the Global Methodist Church's Pastoral Studies Program. Methodists now make up 25% of Truett's total enrollment. As of today, \$5.7 Million has been endowed for the work of the Wesley House with over a million dollars in scholarships awarded annually to students because of Truett's \$128 Million Endowment. I am happy to report that Marvin has the third largest Wesley House Endowment created for students being trained for ordained ministry in the Global Methodist Church. With the \$70,000 gift taken to the school during this most recent Wesley House Weekend, I am happy to report that Marvin now has an endowed scholarship totaling \$278,000. This scholarship provides a deserving Wesley House student with a \$10,000-\$12,000/yr. scholarship. The good news is that the average seminary student at Truett benefits from having 87% of their tuition paid for by endowed scholarships. Many generous gifts are making a meaningful contribution to the future of our denomination.

Thank you, Marvin for embracing the vision of the need to create a new pipeline for those seeking affordable, orthodox, evangelical, Wesleyan education for future clergy. The future is bright for our denomination because future pastors and leaders will continue to receive excellent education and training.

Generosity coupled with vision creates a future. As we celebrate our annual stewardship campaign this October, let us continue to seek God's direction in making Marvin's future faithful and strong. Remember the words of 2 Corinthians 8: 7 - "Since you excel in so many ways - in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love for us - I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving."

Sharing the Adventure,



Doug



Dr. Doug Baker

## Marvin Designated as an Emergency Shelter

Marvin has partnered with the American Red Cross to be an Emergency Shelter in the event of a local disaster (tornado, fire, explosion, etc.) that would create a need for sheltering local (Smith County) residents on a temporary basis. The shelter will provide food, comfort and a place to stay, along with resources to help those affected plan for their next steps.

The Red Cross will provide a team of individuals to manage the process, but we need Marvin members who are willing to partner with and assist them. If you are interested in helping serve the community after a disaster, the Red Cross will be conducting a training session for our members in an effort to be as prepared as possible for such an emergency. The training will be held on Tuesday, October 14 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. with lunch provided. During the training, you will receive a broad overview of what to expect from a Red Cross shelter, how the shelter operates, and best practices in serving shelter clients. The local Red Cross Director has promised it will be fun and informative!



**Love Thy City 2025 REPORT CARD**

- 11,059 Attendees**
- 4,818 Children & Teen Attendees**
- 614 VOLUNTEERS**
- \$50K Free Food Truck & Shoe Vouchers**
- \$5K in Electricity vouchers**
- Over 65 Church Partners**
- 66 Nonprofit Organizations connected with families for resources**
- 45 Business Partners**
- 542 SOULS SAVED!**

Love God. Love People.



**American Red Cross**

## EMERGENCY SHELTER MEMBER TRAINING

**Tuesday, Oct. 14**

**9 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Lunch provided*

## Dr. Pat Day Midweek Class

Join popular retired pastor and leadership coach Dr. Pat Day as he leads a Midweek Class for five Wednesday nights in October. Pat's topic will be ***Be Like Jesus: The Challenge to Follow in His Footsteps***. This class will meet Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 6 p.m. in the church library.

## Assisted Listening System

If your hearing aids have a Bluetooth connection to your phone, you can now listen to the service without checking out a receiver and headphones. You can even play/pause the audio and adjust the volume to your liking. Follow these steps to listen to the service using your phone:



Download the **"Listen Wifi"** app on your phone.

When you arrive at the church, connect your phone to the "Marvin Public Wifi" network.

Open the "ListenWifi" app on your phone. Click "Sanctuary" to listen to the service.

Receivers and headphones will still be available to check out. Please see usher for assistance.



## Eternal Flame Fund Dinner

The 10th Annual Eternal Flame Fund Dinner was a truly memorable evening filled with delicious food, warm fellowship, and heartfelt generosity. Hosted by Dr. Doug Baker, the night began with an outstanding meal prepared by Mary Lynn Powell and her incredible kitchen staff. Steaks were expertly sous vide by Kenny Cotton and graciously served by our dedicated Marvin Volunteers.

The program continued with Church Properties Committee updates given by Chair Kevin Ferrier. Eternal Flame Fund project updates were presented by Executive Director of Business Operations, Rick Jett. Stewardship Chair Mary Ann Cozby followed with a special report, showcasing the many building improvements made possible over the past decade thanks to the unwavering support and generosity of Eternal Flame Fund members.

We extend a special thank you to our guest speaker, John Wayne McMann, for delivering an inspiring message that touched all in attendance. Special recognition was given to Peggy Berry and Kristen Arnett for their dedicated service as Stewardship Consultants, and we were pleased to introduce Holly Freeman as the new Stewardship Consultant.

The evening concluded with a beautiful musical performance by Kara and Johnathan Story, followed by a benediction from Dr. Marc Donaldson.

A heartfelt thank-you to the entire Marvin Church staff and the outstanding volunteers who contributed to every aspect of the Eternal Flame Fund Dinner.

Thanks to your generosity, we have already raised \$63,000, bringing us closer to our \$83,000 goal. Your continued support ensures that the Eternal Flame Fund remains a strong and lasting legacy for years to come.



## Moms of Marvin

Moms of Marvin is a community of mothers of children ages birth to Kindergarten. Together we bond over the joys and difficulties of early motherhood, while enjoying childcare, breakfast, devotionals, mentorship, and guest speakers. We meet on

the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Join us on Oct. 9 and 23.

Moms of Marvin at Night is a space for intentional community for moms with littles. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m. Together we encourage and experience the transforming power of God's presence. We hope to see you at our Oct. 9 and 23 gatherings, on and we encourage you to bring a friend!

### Susanna Wesley Circle



Gather in the Garden Room on Monday, Oct. 20, at 10 a.m. Jim and Janet Chase present *Call to Worship*. All women are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend.

### Amazing Grace Circle

Gather Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 6 p.m. at 1607 Woodlands Drive. Anna Luz, Executive Director of SHINE, will present the purpose and plans for SHINE, a mission for single mothers. She will explain not only what they do but how Marvin is partnering with them and how Amazing Grace Night Circle can volunteer. All women are welcome, and we encourage you to bring a friend!

Contact Brandy Stevens with questions at [bstevens@marvin.church](mailto:bstevens@marvin.church).



 To stay up to date on Marvin Women's Ministry gathering and opportunities be sure to text "womens" to 90382. 

## Fall Festival at Bonner Elementary

Come bless the kids at Bonner during their annual Fall Festival and Book Fair (formerly Trunk or Treat). The event will be indoors, and you are invited to come set up a fun booth and hand out candy and prizes to the kids at Bonner Elementary.

**Thursday Oct. 30, 4-6 p.m.**  
**Bonner Elementary**  
**Contact Kenley Moore**  
**for information.**  
**[kmoore@marvin.church](mailto:kmoore@marvin.church)**



## ANNUAL Veterans Day Luncheon AT MARVIN

Join us for the annual Marvin Methodist Church Veteran's Day Luncheon honoring all Marvin members who are serving or have served our country.

**Tuesday Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m., Pirtle Hall**



### Habits of the Heart: October

Socks and underwear benefitting Hwy 80 Rescue Mission. New in package adult-sized socks and underwear for men and women.



### Serve Night Monday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m.

We will be assembling goodie bags for Bonner's Fall Festival plus packing 36 holiday care boxes for military service persons serving abroad



### Sweets for the Soul Oct. 13

Hospice of East Texas. For info: [kmoore@marvin.church](mailto:kmoore@marvin.church)

## SAVE THE DATES

## CHRISTMAS JOY

**Christmas Joy:** Dec. 3 and 4  
*It's not too early to bring those new, unwrapped toys!*

**Methodist Children's Home Foster Kids Christmas Party:** Dec. 6

**Hwy 80 Christmas Parties:** Dec. 9



STAFF HIGHLIGHT

James Shelton



For fifteen years, James Shelton has been an important member of the Facilities/ Maintenance team at Marvin Methodist Church. The position at Marvin was recommended to James by a local pastor and ever since the day he was hired he has maintained most of the outdoor spaces, taken care of set up and tear down for all events, and assists staff and church members in any way possible.

There are many things James enjoys when it comes to working at Marvin, but the most enjoyable thing is interacting with people, both staff and church members.

His father is a retired auto mechanic and his mother is a retired LVN. He also has four siblings, two brothers and two sisters.

Outside of work, James enjoys fishing and loves the Dallas Cowboys and going to AT&T Stadium.

MEMORIALS as of Sept. 3

**ETERNAL FLAME**  
In honor of Randy Cook  
Frances & Jim Blake  
In memory of Yvonne Dupuy  
Kay & George Rook  
In memory of Rhett Rippy  
Mary & Ron Gammell  
Paula & John Perkins  
In memory of Judy Dewees  
In memory of Yvonne Dupuy

In memory of Charlene Monroe  
In memory of Jack Russell  
The Unity Class  
**MARVIN CONCERT SERIES**  
In memory of Jeanette Jarrell  
Deanna Olson  
**MUSIC**  
In memory of Jeanette Jarrell  
Sue Jennings

Senior Adult Sunday School Class  
of First Baptist, Edom  
In memory of Kevin Rook  
Barbara & Allen Dogger  
In honor of Aria Story  
In memory of Barbara Love  
In memory of Holly Wilhelm  
Gail White



Financial update through July

	July budget	July actual	YTD budget	YTD actual
Gifts received/other income	\$ 341,000	\$ 508,369	\$ 2,387,000	\$ 2,588,400
Expenditures	\$ 409,776	\$ 437,357	\$ 3,020,179	\$ 2,845,638
Excess/(shortage)	\$ (68,776)	\$ (71,012)	\$ (633,179)	\$ (257,239)

Attendance

Aug. 3.....	772
Aug. 10.....	976
Aug. 17.....	905
Aug. 24.....	844
Aug. 31.....	724



903.592.7396



Facebook.com/  
Marvin.Methodist



info@marvin.church



Marvin.church



KIDS

Brick Street Block Party is here!

It's our 2nd annual fall event on Sunday, Oct. 19 from 5-7 pm. Last year we joined forces with First Baptist Church Tyler and this year we have added Christ Church Episcopal on the team! We will host 2,000+ kids and families from our community! Be sure and check the website for ways to serve – cooking, games, serving food, safety, and more!

We need lots of candy to make this event possible! Bring your candy throughout the month of October and place it in the bucket of the staff member you want to get a pie in the face on the night of the event! We can't wait to see who gets it!

**BRICK STREET Block Party**  
**October 19**  
DOWNTOWN TYLER  
PLAZA TOWER PARKING LOT  
**5-7 PM | FREE EVENT!**

First Baptist Church Tyler  
MARVIN Methodist Church  
CHRIST Church Episcopal



STUDENTS

Fall UNITE Kicks Off

The Marvin Student Ministry kicked off Unite in September! During our first night back, we had 39 middle schoolers in attendance and 21 high schoolers – quite a crowd! We have been going through a series called, "Encountering Jesus in Luke." Come, Holy Spirit!

Unite is our largest student gathering and occurs on Sunday nights. Middle school meets from 5-7 p.m. and the high school meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All students eat together at 6:30 p.m., but they have their own designated worship/teaching times now. Why did we make this change? We had so many students in attendance! After months of prayer, we felt it best for their spiritual formation that they have their own time to get specific teachings according to their age. This way each group can worship and receive a message tailored to their needs and stage of life.

We are immensely excited for how many adult leaders are volunteering their time to serve our student ministry. Our team, outside of staff, is now at 15+ people! It is often said that "it takes a village to raise a child" and the same is true in ministry. Discipleship is not up to one person or up to the "paid Christians," discipleship is the call for ALL of God's people. Matthew 28 tells us to "go into all the world and make disciples," and this is known as The Great Commission – it is not called The Great Suggestion. We are all called to serve Christ and make disciples in whatever context God has put us in. To say we are excited about what God is doing is an understatement. Thank all of you for your presence in these students' lives!







**MARVIN**  
Methodist Church

300 W. Erwin Street | Tyler, TX 75702

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Permit No. 568  
Tyler, TX



## MUSIC

Marvin Concert Series:  
Min Kwon Trio  
Sunday, Nov. 9, 5 p.m.

Graeme Steele Johnson  
*Clarinet*

Min Kwon  
*Piano*

Masumi Rostad  
*Viola*



## Welcome to Marvin



Billy Bass



Ron Crowder



Jamie & Shannon  
McDaniel

## Town Hall Meeting Oct. 19

The Finance Committee and Finance Department will be hosting a townhall meeting to review financial information with our members. Items to be discussed will be financial information regarding revenue and expenses. These quarterly meetings provide a forum to answer any questions you may have about your church's finances. The meetings will also provide a place to meet representatives of the Finance Committee. The townhall meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 19 during the Sunday School hour and at noon (immediately following the conclusion of the 11 a.m. services). All townhall meetings will take place in Marvin's Library.

The meetings will continue to be held at the end of each quarter. We hope you will join us as this will be an excellent opportunity to ask questions and to gain a greater understanding of Marvin's financials.

